

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 619

To establish a Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 17, 1997

Mr. SARBANES introduced the following bill; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To establish a Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails
Network, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Chesapeake Bay Gate-
5 ways and Watertrails Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS SITES.—The
9 term “Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites” means the

1 Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites identified under sec-
 2 tion 5(a)(2).

3 (2) CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND
 4 WATERTRAILS NETWORK.—The term “Chesapeake
 5 Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network” means the
 6 network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and
 7 Chesapeake Bay Watertrails created under section
 8 5(a)(5).

9 (3) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.—The term
 10 “Chesapeake Bay Watershed” shall have the mean-
 11 ing determined by the Secretary.

12 (4) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERTRAILS.—The
 13 term “Chesapeake Bay Watertrails” means the
 14 Chesapeake Bay Watertrails established under sec-
 15 tion 5(a)(4).

16 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 17 the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Di-
 18 rector of the National Park Service).

19 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

20 Congress finds that—

21 (1) the Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure
 22 and a resource of international significance;

23 (2) the region within the Chesapeake Bay wa-
 24 tershed possesses outstanding natural, cultural, his-
 25 torical, and recreational resources that combine to

1 form nationally distinctive and linked waterway and
2 terrestrial landscapes;

3 (3) there is a need to study and interpret the
4 connection between the unique cultural heritage of
5 human settlements throughout the Chesapeake Bay
6 Watershed and the waterways and other natural re-
7 sources that led to the settlements and on which the
8 settlements depend; and

9 (4) as a formal partner in the Chesapeake Bay
10 Program, the Secretary has an important respon-
11 sibility—

12 (A) to further assist regional, State, and
13 local partners in efforts to increase public
14 awareness of and access to the Chesapeake
15 Bay;

16 (B) to help communities and private land-
17 owners conserve important regional resources;
18 and

19 (C) to study, interpret, and link the re-
20 gional resources with each other and with
21 Chesapeake Bay Watershed conservation, res-
22 toration, and education efforts.

23 **SEC. 4. PURPOSES.**

24 The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to identify opportunities for increased public
2 access to and education about the Chesapeake Bay;

3 (2) to provide financial and technical assistance
4 to communities for conserving important natural,
5 cultural, historical, and recreational resources within
6 the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and

7 (3) to link appropriate national parks, water-
8 ways, monuments, parkways, wildlife refuges, other
9 national historic sites, and regional or local heritage
10 areas into a network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways
11 sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails.

12 **SEC. 5. CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS**
13 **NETWORK.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide tech-
15 nical and financial assistance, in cooperation with other
16 Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit
17 organizations, and the private sector—

18 (1) to identify, conserve, restore, and interpret
19 natural, recreational, historical, and cultural re-
20 sources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed;

21 (2) to identify and utilize the collective re-
22 sources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for en-
23 hancing public education of and access to the Ches-
24 peake Bay;

(5) to create a network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails.

13 (1) State or Federal parks or refuges;

15 (3) archaeological, cultural, historical, or rec-
16 reational sites; or

19 SEC. 6. CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS GRANTS ASSISTANCE
20 PROGRAM.

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1 recreational, and natural resources within the Chesapeake
2 Bay Watershed.

3 (b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall develop appro-
4 priate eligibility, prioritization, and review criteria for
5 grants under this section.

6 (c) MATCHING FUNDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
7 PENSES.—A grant under this section—

8 (1) shall not exceed 50 percent of eligible
9 project costs;

10 (2) shall be made on the condition that non-
11 Federal sources, including in-kind contributions of
12 services or materials, provide the remainder of eligi-
13 ble project costs; and

14 (3) shall be made on the condition that not
15 more than 10 percent of all eligible project costs be
16 used for administrative expenses.

17 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
19 this Act \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.

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